

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of configuring a directory server comprising a plurality of entries, the method comprising:
creating a CoS scheme, wherein the CoS scheme comprises
a CoS definition entry; and
one or more CoS template entries.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the CoS Definition entry has a CoS specifier and a value for the CoS specifier.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the value of the CoS specifier in the CoS definition entry appears in a target entry as a first attribute type.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the value of the first attribute type corresponds to a relative distinguishing name (RDN) of a template associated with the CoS definition entry.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the CoS definition entry contains a list of attribute types, the values for which may be provided by the CoS scheme in said one or more CoS template entries.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) An apparatus comprising:
a directory server comprising:
 - a component to configure and store a plurality of target entries; and
 - a component to create a CoS scheme, wherein the CoS scheme comprises
 - a CoS definition entry; and
 - one or more CoS template entries.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the CoS definition entry has a CoS specifier and a value for the CoS specifier.
12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the value of the CoS specifier in the CoS definition appears in a target entry as a first attribute type.
13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the value of the first attribute type corresponds to a relative distinguishing name (RDN) of a template associated with the CoS definition entry.
14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the CoS definition entry contains a list of attribute types, the values for which may be provided by the CoS scheme in said one or more CoS template entries.
15. (Original) An apparatus comprising:
a directory server comprising:
 - a component configured to store a plurality of target entries;
 - a component adapted to configure an attribute-value pair that could be shared by at least a subset of the plurality of target entries;
 - a component configured to receive a request for an attribute-value pair associated with a first target entry;
 - a component configured to search in a list of attribute-value pairs which are associated with template entries that are in turn associated with CoS definition entries for instances of attribute-value pairs that

march the requested attribute type, said searching step resulting in
a matched list of attribute-value pairs; and
a component configured to return the selected attribute-value pair.

16. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 15, wherein the set of constraints includes CoS scope.
17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the set of constraints includes determining if a CoS specifier associated with the matched attribute-value pair matches a CoS definition entry associated with the attribute-value pair.
18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the set of constraints includes determining if a matched attribute-value pair corresponds to the RDN of a template associated with the CoS definition entry.
19. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the CoS definition entry includes a CoS specifier and a list of attributes, whereby a first target entry within scope of the CoS scheme obtains values for attributes provided in the CoS Definition entry by using an attribute with a distinguishing name (DN) value contained within the first target entry.
20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the DN points to a second target entry which is a valid entry.
21. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the DN points to a second target entry which is a valid entry and the first target entry uses the second target entry as a template.
22. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the CoS definition entry includes a CoS specifier and a list of attributes, whereby a first target entry within scope of the CoS scheme obtains values for attributes provided in the CoS Definition entry

by using an attribute with a distinguishing name (DN) value contained within the first target entry.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the DN points to a second target entry which is a valid entry.
24. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the DN points to a second target entry which is a valid entry and the first target entry uses the second target entry as a template.
25. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the component adapted to configured the attribute-value pair uses an indirect CoS scheme.
26. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising:
a component configured to apply at least one constraint in a set of constraints to the matched list of attribute-value pairs to result in a selected attribute-value pair.
27. (New) The apparatus in claim 26, wherein the set of constraints includes determining if a CoS specifier associated with the matched attribute-value pair matches a valid second target entry.
28. (New) The apparatus as in claim 26, wherein the matched second target entry contains an attribute provided by the indirect CoS scheme.
29. (New) A method of providing an attribute-value pair stored in a directory system and shared by a plurality of target entries in the directory system, the method comprising the steps of:
creating an indirect CoS scheme, wherein the CoS scheme comprises CoS Definition entries;
receiving a request for an attribute-value pairs which are associated with

template entries that are in turn associated with CoS Definition entries for instances of attribute-value pairs that match the requested attribute type, said searching step resulting in a matched list of attribute-value pairs;
applying at least one of a set of constraints to the matched list of attribute-value pairs; and
returning the attribute-value pair that satisfied the applied constraint(s).

30. (New) The method as in claim 29, wherein the set of constraints includes CoS scope.
31. (New) The method as in claim 29, wherein the set of constraints includes determining if a CoS specifier associated with the matched attribute-value pair matches a valid second target entry.
32. (Original) The method as in claim 31, wherein the matched second target entry contains an attribute provided by the indirect CoS scheme.